



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your ref: J 2637PGB-R/Ru
Application No: GB 0218123.8
Applicant: James Garnet Morgan

Examiner: Matthew Parker
Tel: 01633 814706
Date of report: 3 February 2003

Latest date for reply: 7 August 2003

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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Plurality of invention

1. Your claims define a number of separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:

- (i) Claims 1-18: characterised by limiting use of credit to one gaming application
- (ii) Claims 19-37: characterised by the determination of whether the gaming application is associated with the gaming machine
- (iii) Claim 38: characterised by operation via the internet.

2. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description. You may wish to consider filing divisional applications. Any such applications should normally be filed no later than 3 months before the expiry of the period for putting the present application in order.

Scope of search

3. In accordance with Section 17(6), only the first of these inventions has been searched. The other inventions can be searched if you wish. In this case you will have to file a further Form 9/77 for each of the additional inventions to be searched.

What this report covers

4. I have not been able to consider the novelty or obviousness of the unsearched inventions.

Novelty

5. The invention as defined in claims 1-18 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

- GB 2374191 A (GALA), see page 5 lines 15-12
relevant to claims 1-4, 9-15, 17, and 18
- GB 2296361 A (JPM), see abstract
relevant to claims 1-4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, and 18



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[Examination Report contd.]

GB 2241098 A (BARCREST), see page 5 lines 13-16
relevant to claims 1-4, 7-10, and 14-18
EP 1094425 A2 (INTERNATIONAL), see column 3 lines 49-57
relevant to claims 1-6, 14, 15, 17, and 18
WO 02/23496 A2 (AMUSEMENT), see page 9 lines 13-20
relevant to claims 1-4, 9-18
WO 02/23491 A2 (INTERNATIONAL), see page 4 lines 12-16
relevant to claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17, and 18
WO 94/16781 A1 (MGM), see abstract
relevant to claims 1-6, 10-15, 17, and 18

6. There were many documents that anticipate claim 1 of your application, and the above documents are the best examples of these. All these documents show cards or tickets that can be used in specific gaming machines and hence limit the credit thereto. It seems that all your claims relating to the first invention are anticipated. These documents may also be relevant to the other inventions that I have not specifically searched.

Clarity

7. The word 'spirit' should be deleted from page 16 line 17 as it is indeterminate in scope.
8. Your statement of invention on page 2 lines 1-9 is not consistent with claim 1.

Other matters

9. Because of the broad scope of your claim 1, and the number of documents that were citable against the claim, a further search and fee may be necessary on amendment.
10. On amendment care should be taken to ensure that all the embodiments fall with the scope of the invention.



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Yours faithfully

Matthew Parker
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



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Application No: GB 0218123.8
Claims searched: 1 to 18

Examiner: Matthew Parker
Date of search: 31 January 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X	1-4,9-15,17,18	GB 2374191 A	(GALA), see page 5 lines 15-24
X	1-4,7-11,14,15,17,18	GB 2296361 A	(JPM), see abstract
X	1-4,7-10,14-18	GB 2241098 A	(BARCREST), see page 5 lines 13-16
X	1-6,14,15,17,18	EP 1094425 A2	(INTERNATIONAL), see column 3 lines 49-57
X,P	1-4,9-18	WO 02/23496 A2	(AMUSEMENT), see page 9 lines 13-20
X,P	1-12,14,15,17,18	WO 02/23491 A2	(INTERNATIONAL), see page 4 lines 12-16, and page 5 lines 5-12, and page 7 lines 9-12, and page 7 lines 25-28
X	1-6,10-15,17,18	WO 94/16781 A1	(MGM), see abstract

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^v:

G4V

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

G07F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI